PROFESSOR MENAHEM BEN SASSON

President of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Dear All,

Once again the Israeli Presidential Conference brought together leaders from around the world to gather and exchange ideas toward creating a better tomorrow. Yet this year's Conference was a unique event, as participants converged not only to innovate, but also to celebrate the 90th birthday of President Shimon Peres.

As a Conference organizer, the Hebrew University was proud to partner with President Peres, the world's elder statesman and icon of innovation. In fields as diverse as brain science, agriculture and alternative energy, we share the President's commitment to advancing human knowledge and improving the human condition. As Israel's leading university and one of the world's leading academic and research institutions, we remain steadfast in our commitment to driving innovation for the benefit of Israeli society and all of humanity.

On the Conference's first day, I joined President Peres, Mrs. Lily Safra and other inspiring leaders to publicly launch The Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences (ELSC). Already a leader in international brain research, ELSC will become Israel's largest and most innovative brain science center. To mark the occasion, the Hebrew University hosted an extraordinary exhibition, "Tomorrow State of Mind", at which scientists from Israeli universities revealed the cutting edge of brain research and technology. Their dedication and creativity will have a profoundly positive impact on the lives of future generations.

On this auspicious birthday, I applaud President Peres's accomplishments, vision and continuing leadership. And to all of you who participated in the Conference, from Israel and abroad, I wish the greatest success in leading us toward a brighter and better tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Professor Menahem Ben-Sasson
President, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem